

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TUNIS 00225 141850Z

43

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 AID-20 DRC-01 /102 W

----- 096978

O 141820Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4176

C O N F I D E N T I A L TUNIS 0225

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TS

SUBJECT: TUNISIAN-LIBYAN UNITY: IMPLICATIONS FOR USG;  
PUBLIC POSTURE

REF: TUNIS 204, TUNIS 206.

1. AS REPORTED REFTELS, PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA HAS ASSURED ME THAT TUNISIAN-LIBYAN UNITY IS CONSISTENT WITH U.S. INTERESTS. WE HAVE ALSO INDICATED THAT IF WE ARE CORRECT IN BELIEVING THAT POLITICAL UNITY IS UNLIKELY IN FORESEEABLE FUTURE, SHORT-RUN U.S. INTERESTS IN TUNISIA WILL BE PRESERVED AND THAT FOR TIME BEING WE SHOULD SIT TIGHT AND INITIATE NO CHANGE IN OUR POLICIES TOWARD AND PROGRAMS IN TUNISIA (TUNIS 204).

2. IN FURTHERANCE THESE THOUGHTS, WE BELIEVE THAT ANY USG ACTION THAT SEEKS TO PENALIZE TUNISIANS WOULD RUN COUNTER TO U.S. INTERESTS. IF UNITY SCHEME COLLAPSES ON ITS OWN, ANYTHING THAT WEAKENS TUNISIA AT THIS JUNCTURE WOULD ONLY RISK STRENGTHENING HAND OF LIBYANS AND LIBYAN SUPPORTERS.

3. WE ANTICIPATE SERIES OF QUESTIONS FROM OTHER EMBASSIES, PRESS AND BUSINESS PERSONNEL CONCERNING  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TUNIS 00225 141850Z

(A) ATTITUDE USG AND (B) RESULTS MY CONVERSATION WITH

PRESIDENT. WE SUGGEST THAT OUR PUBLIC POSITION SHOULD BE THAT UNITY PROPOSAL IS MATTER BETWEEN TUNISIANS AND LIBYANS AND USG CONTEMPLATES NO CHANGES IN ITS RELATIONSHIPS WITH TUNISIA. I DO NOT PROPOSE TO ANSWER PRESS INQUIRIES BY DIVULGING DETAILS MY MEETING WITH PRESIDENT OTHER THAN TO SAY THAT WE DISCUSSED MATTERS OF MUTUAL CONCERN INCLUDING RECENT DEVELOPMENTS (BELIEVE BOURGUIBA'S REASSURANCES SHOULD COME FROM GOT SHOULD GOT CHOOSE REVEAL THEM). I WILL, OF COURSE, INFORM SOME OF MY DIPLOMATIC COLLEAGUES (WHEN ASKED) OF BOURGUIBA'S ASSURANCES AND WILL PASS ON SAME WORD TO BONA FIDE AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN ON FYI BASIS. SHOULD DEPARTMENT PREFER DIFFERENT PROCEDURE, I WILL NEED TT KNOW BY OPENING OF BUSINESS TOMORROW MORNING.  
SEELYE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FOREIGN RELATIONS, FEDERATION, POLITICAL CONCESSIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 14 JAN 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974TUNIS00225  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** TUNIS  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1974/newtext/t19740142/aaaabnvp.tel  
**Line Count:** 76  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** TUNIS 204, TUNIS 206.  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** golinofr  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 26 AUG 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <26 AUG 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <10 DEC 2002 by golinofr>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** TUNISIAN-LIBYAN UNITY: IMPLICATIONS FOR USG; PUBLIC POSTURE  
**TAGS:** PFOR, TS, US, (BOURGUIBA, HABIB)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005